

## Israeli troops wound 18 in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) Israeli soldiers shot and wounded an eight-year-old boy and 17 other people at demonstrations in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday, Palestinians and police said. Medics at a United Nations clinic said the boy was hit in the head in protests in Jabalya triggered by the death of a Palestinian in Shifa Hospital. Hospital records gave the cause of death of Ali Sharaf, 25, as teargas inhalation. Palestinians said the gas was fired by Israeli troops a week ago. An Israeli military source confirmed Sharaf's death but said he was wounded in clashes with the army last week. An off-duty Israeli soldier shot and critically wounded a Palestinian who allegedly stoned his car in Arab East Jerusalem Friday, police said. Police detained the soldier for questioning. Palestinians said Israeli soldiers used rockets to blow up at least two houses in Gaza City where they suspected activists were hiding. The army confirmed six Palestinians arrived at hospital with injuries and said it was checking the other reports.

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## King, Assad exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday evening consulted with Syrian President Hafez Assad on the current Arab situation. During the telephone conversation, both leaders reviewed the best means to consolidate the Arab stand against challenges being faced at present.

## Sayeh urges Clinton to be even-handed

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Friday called on the new American administration of Bill Clinton to follow a new even-handed policy in the Middle East. Sheikh Sayeh also urged Washington to implement United Nations resolutions fairly on all parties concerned without giving any preferential treatment to Israel at the expense of Arab rights. In a statement to Petra, Sheikh Sayeh said: "We do not want the new U.S. president to be hostile to Israel, but we want him to be fair in dealing with global issues and to give priority to the Palestine question." Sheikh Sayeh said the Arabs "are looking with hope to President Clinton and expect him to apply justice to the Middle East and implement the U.N. resolutions against Israel with the same resolve and determination, demonstrated against others, so that peace, stability and justice will prevail in the region."

## Suspect acquitted of AUB bombing

BEIRUT (AP) — A Beirut military court Friday acquitted a Shiite Muslim accused of bombing the American University of Beirut (AUB) 14 months ago. The five-man tribunal cited "insufficient evidence" in the case against Jihad Khalil, 29, who was arrested a week after the Nov. 8, 1991 bombing. One person was killed and eight wounded in the car bomb explosion that tore down the administration building and the clock tower of the Middle East's most prestigious university. The court also dismissed a charge against Khalil that he murdered his sister, Hayat, 25, a former AUB student, after the bombing.

## Indian plane seized in brief hijack

LUCKNOW, India (R) — A man reported to be seeking the release of imprisoned Hindu nationalists hijacked an Indian Airlines plane Friday but surrendered shortly afterwards, officials said. Airline officials said the plane was seized after leaving Lucknow, in northern India, for New Delhi carrying 48 passengers. They said the man claimed to be carrying a bomb and threatened to blow up the aircraft. The plane returned to Lucknow 35 minutes after takeoff and the hijacker, identified as Satish Chandra Pandey, surrendered. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said Pandey had surrendered after speaking to Atal Behari Vajpayee, a leader of the Hindu Nationalist Bharata Janata Party (BJP).

## Famous Japanese novelist dies

TOKYO (AP) — Kobo Abe, one of Japan's most prominent authors and a major influence on post-war Japanese literature, died Friday at a Tokyo hospital. He was 68. The hospital did not disclose his cause of death, but Kyodo News Service said he had entered the hospital Wednesday after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. A novelist and playwright, Mr. Abe was best known for his portrayal of modern man's struggle against alienation and loss of identity in his 1962 novel "Woman in the Dunes." His works often focused on the relationship between the hunter and the hunted and on the bleakness of modern urban life.

## Turk planes attack rebels in east

ANKARA (R) — Turkish jets and helicopter gunships attacked separatists' Kurdish guerrilla bases in eastern Turkey for the second successive day Friday, a security official said. "The operation is continuing today. But no clear result (on rebel casualties) has been received. We must wait for the operation to end," an official from the emergency rule government in Diyarbakir city told Reuters by telephone.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



## Somalis meet to discuss peace conference

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Representatives of Somalia's warlord factions began an eight-day meeting Friday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to plan a March 15 reconciliation conference. Seven members make up the committee but they represent 15 armed factions, aligned with Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed on the one hand and in a loose coalition with his rival militia chief Ali Mahdi Mohammad on the other. Before March 1 committee members said they would agree on an agenda and a list of participants in the conference, which aims to decide the political future of anarchic Somalia. The committee had to be set up after 11 days of peace talks sponsored by the United Nations and Ethiopia failed to come up with an agreement on participants. General Aideed refused to agree that smaller clan-based militias and a range of civilian figures such as elders and religious leaders should be allowed to have the same status as a peace conference as his own militarily powerful ethnic faction. It is not clear if the committee can persuade Gen. Aideed to stand down from his demands for the special powers he thinks he deserves for playing a major role in the alliance of militias that overthrew dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

# Confusion prevails in Iraqi-declared truce

**Baghdad denies violating ceasefire and U.S. report of attack, maintains conciliatory tone; more U.N. inspectors arrive**

## Combined agency dispatches

CONFUSION surrounded the status of an Iraqi-declared ceasefire in its confrontation with the American-led coalition forces Friday, with the U.S. saying its forces had fired missiles at Iraqi radar installations and Baghdad refuting the report.

A second team of United Nations weapons inspectors arrived in Baghdad, one day after the first U.N. flight in one month landed in the Iraqi capital after receiving clearance from the Baghdad authorities.

The U.S. report on the missile incident said Iraqi surface-to-air missile radar had tried to track a U.S. F-4G fighter and an F-16 flying over the northern "no-fly" zone near the city of Mosul.

The parallel is the southern limit of the "no-fly" zone which the United States and its allies have imposed in the north.

"There is no SAM-3 or any other type of anti-aircraft battery east of Mosul," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"We think that today's incident is a fabricated one which was aimed at provocation," he added.

At first Reuters erroneously interpreted the spokesman as meaning that U.S. planes did not attack Friday.

The United States said its planes attacked an anti-craft missile site about 24 kilometres east of the city of Mosul and 30 kilometres north of the 36th Parallel.

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"First indications are that the missiles apparently missed the target," a U.S. Defense Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We don't know why that happened."

The source said the Harm missile is supposed to follow the radar signal into the target. The official said that one possible reason for the miss was that the radar signal coming from the Iraqi installation was not strong enough.

The White House said, President Clinton would not soften his hard-line stance towards Iraq, and U.S. military jets will con-

tration of President Bill Clinton. But Iraq said it had no missile batteries in the area where the United States said Friday's attack took place.

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The White House said, President Clinton would not soften his hard-line stance towards Iraq, and U.S. military jets will con-

time to respond to any threat against them from Iraqi air defences.

"The president is prepared to hold firm with Iraq. They must comply with all the U.N. resolutions," Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said.

"As you know, similar to the situation yesterday, if the Iraqis take hostile action against the American pilots, they will respond," Mr. Stephanopoulos said at a regular White House briefing.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, meanwhile, summoned foreign ambassadors Friday and told them that Iraq had not provoked Thursday's attack and had not violated the ceasefire.

Mr. Sahaf described Thursday's incident as "an irresponsible action on the part of the American side."

"It clearly seems that some forces harbouring bad intentions

(Continued on page 5)

## King receives Juan Carlos' message

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received a written message from King Juan Carlos of Spain. The message was delivered to King Hussein by Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who was received here by King Hussein.

The King and Mr. Solana reviewed bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein stressed Jordan's firm position and its commitment to establishing a just, comprehensive and honourable peace in the region.

King Hussein and Mr. Solana also discussed crisis sparked by Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians and both stressed the need to solve it in accordance with U.N. Security



His Majesty King Hussein Friday receives Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at Aqaba (Petra photo)

Spanish foreign minister said following the meeting.

"He had given a very intelligent vision of what is going on in this region and what is the step that should be taken in order to solve the problem that for so many years have (existed) here in this region," he said in a statement to Jordan Television.

(See related story on page 3)

## Israel hopes it has stalled U.N. sanctions

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Friday it hoped to delay any U.N. Security Council action against its expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon until after its high court rules on the legality of the move.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman said if the court ordered the expellees be allowed to return, the government would comply.

"What I can say is Israel is interested and would refer that the Security Council would not convene before the decision of the high court," Gad Ben-Ari said.

"The prime minister said already whatever the court decides of course binds the government...if there would be an order of the court to get them back, we'll get them back," he said.

"It all depends on the decision and its wording."

Mr. Ben-Ari declined to confirm a report in Israel's Haaretz daily newspaper that the govern-

ment had asked the United States to delay the council convening.

The high court allowed the expulsions of the alleged Islamic fundamentalist activists on Dec. 17. It said it would rule later on the legality of not allowing appeals, as customary, before the banishment. No decision is expected before Monday.

The evictees have been trapped in South Lebanon for five weeks. Lebanon refuses to accept them, saying it will not be a dumping ground for Israel (see story on page 5).

A third mission to Israel by a U.N. envoy since the Security Council condemned the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon until after its high court rules on the legality of the move.

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## Egypt seen angry over Sudan's approach to U.N.

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has resumed media attacks on Sudan and is asserting practical control over a disputed border area because Sudan took the row to the United Nations, Western diplomats said.

Cairo's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper devoted a scathing front-page editorial to Khartoum's "useless," rulers and Al Ghoniweh announced a team of Egyptian doctors would visit the Halabja triangle Monday to give

them medical treatment from the central problem of our return."

Meanwhile, the 413 Palestinians, stranded at a tent camp in icy South Lebanon with little food and medicine, marched towards Lebanese army lines to present petitions to the world community to force the Israeli occupation authorities to allow their return home (AFP photo)

attend a bilateral meeting on the issue in Cairo.

Iran implicitly backed Sudan during a visit by Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Sahloul to Tehran on Friday, saying Sudan's territorial integrity must be maintained.

A committee of the two neighbours, which met twice on the issue last year, had been due to meet earlier this month but Sudanese diplomats said Khartoum was not interested in discussing the problem bilaterally after Egypt had taken over the area on the ground.

Last week Khartoum decided to nationalise about 20 elite schools in Sudan run by Cairo for decades, with over 10,000 pupils. Sudan said it was surprised by Egyptian protests over the decision, which was not anti-Egyptian but part of a wider education policy.

Egypt, in an angry letter of its own to the U.N. Security Council, rejected Sudan's charges that Egyptian troops crossed into Sudan in early December. Both sides have sought to involve diplomatic allies in the fray in the last few days.

As a diplomatic move, it has really backfired... Egypt sees it as severe provocation to take it outside the Arab family," one Cairo-based diplomat said.

Egypt, in an angry letter of its own to the U.N. Security Council, rejected Sudan's charges that Egyptian troops crossed into Sudan in early December. Both sides have sought to involve diplomatic allies in the fray in the last few days.

In the interview recorded Jan. 17, Mr. Rabin sought to differentiate between his government and that of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose Likud bloc was defeated by Labour.

"But whatever the useless do, their attempts to divide the two peoples will not succeed," he added.

(Continued on page 5)

## Rabin says he wants peace in Arab TV interview

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has appealed for peace in his first television interview for direct broadcast to the Arab World.

"I feel that too much wrong has been done in the past. The time has arrived to find a solution to this conflict," Mr. Rabin said in the one-hour interview.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari said Friday the interview was the first the prime minister granted to an Arab television network, the London-based Middle East Television. He also said Rabin had given interviews to London-based Arabic newspapers.

"We are attempting to reach out to a wide Arab population to explain the Israeli position in a direct way. I think we managed to break another small taboo," Mr. Ben-Ari told the Associated Press.

The interview was broadcast Thursday in Arab countries, and the AP showed a tape Friday. It was conducted English by the network's Jerusalem bureau chief, Maher Shalabi, and John Sweeney, a London editor, and shown with Arab subtitles.

The interview was broadcast the same night as a rare Israel Television interview with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, but Mr. Rabin's office said Friday Israel would still refuse to include the PLO in peace talks.

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their attempts to divide the two peoples will not succeed," he added.

(Continued on page 5)

## Clinton averts early clash with Senate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Getting a fast baptism in the rigours of Washington politics, President Bill Clinton Friday backed away from an early showdown with Congress by quickly accepting the withdrawal of Zoe Baird as his nominee for attorney general.

Mr. Clinton, inaugurated Wednesday as the 42nd U.S. president, suffered an embarrassing setback when Democratic political support for Mr. Baird crumbled over her hiring of illegal aliens as household help (see page 8).

As the new White House team tried to settle in after five days of inaugural celebrations, Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, appeared to be emerging as a major power broker.

New White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers told reporters Mrs. Clinton would have an office in the West Wing, where most White House policy work is done, and would focus on domestic policy, including health care.

The blow over the withdrawal of Ms. Baird's nomination was softened for Mr. Clinton by the swift confirmation of 18 other nominees for cabinet posts and other top-tier jobs.

In a White House ceremony Friday that Mr. Clinton attended, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist formally swore in 16 cabinet officers and senior officials.

They also have a lifetime ban on representing foreign governments.

Friday, Mr. Clinton planned to act on executive orders expanding abortion rights. The date was the 20th anniversary of the supreme court ruling that legalised abortion.

One order ready for his signature was to lift restrictions on abortion counselling at federally financed clinics. Another would end the ban on medical research using fetal tissue from abortions.

# Middle East News

## Bush aide says U.S. backed coup attempts in Baghdad

WASHINGTON (R) — George Bush has urged governments around the world to support efforts to oust Saddam Hussein, and the former president's top security aide admitted Washington had backed coup attempts against the Iraqi leader.

In a five-page report to Congress released hours before Bill Clinton took over the White House, Mr. Bush said President Saddam continues to defy terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

He urged world leaders to support opposition groups trying to topple the Iraqi leader — whose challenges to Mr. Bush led to allied air strikes against Iraq in the final days of the president's term.

"We continue to support the efforts of the Iraq National Congress to develop a broad-based alternative to the Saddam regime," said Mr. Bush.

"We encourage other governments to do the same," said Mr. Bush. "The Congress espouses a future Iraq based on the principles of political pluralism, territorial unity and full compliance with all the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Mr. Clinton has supported Mr. Bush's tough stand against President Saddam and during an interview with CBS said "it is almost inconceivable that we can have good relations with Iraq if they were successful."

He said, however, that Bush officials believed they could foster a new foreign government that did not violate the U.S. ban "if they did it the right way."

Mr. Scowcroft told no details on the plot to overthrow President Saddam, but indicated that it involved members of Iraq's powerful military establishment.

He told the newspaper the United States was not directly involved in the coup attempt but made it clear to the backers that they would receive full American support if they were successful.

**Scowcroft: Point made**

Retired General Norman Schwarzkopf said Wednesday that recent U.S. air strikes against Iraq had "made the point" for now but cautioned that

President Saddam will remain a problem.

"He is going to keep doing what he has been doing, so we can't afford to pull out of Kuwait," said the leader of the allied assault that ousted Iraqi forces from the emirate in the 1991 Gulf war.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said the Iraqi president will continue to "provoke problems" along the border separating his country from others in the oil-rich Gulf.

But asked about the recent air strikes, he said enough has been done.

"We have made the point. [They] are complying with the resolutions of the United Nations, so we accomplished what we set out to do," said Gen. Schwarzkopf, adding this was his military assessment, not a political statement.

He made the comments during an interview preceding a fund-raising luncheon for the Boys and Girls Club of Palm Beach County.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said it was unfortunate one of the U.S. missiles fired at Iraqi military targets Sunday was knocked off course by anti-aircraft fire and struck near a Baghdad hotel where three people were killed.

"It was an accident. The terrible thing about war is that people get killed," said Gen. Schwarzkopf, who described himself as "one of those guys who would much rather have peace than war. We should do all we can [diplomatically] before we get involved in one."

**Clinton backs force to compel Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions**

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton Thursday backed the use of force to compel Iraq's compliance with United Nations resolutions.

Questioned about the attack on an Iraqi air defence installation in the northern "no-fly" zone, Mr. Clinton said he did not want to comment, except to say that he intended to follow his predecessor's policy of backing the United Nations.

"We're going to adhere to our policy," Mr. Clinton told reporters during a photo session with his senior White House staff. "We're going to stay with our policy. It's the American policy."

Two U.S. aircraft, while escorting a French reconnaissance plane 13 kilometres southwest of Mosul, attacked the anti-aircraft site after the battery's radar locked onto the French aircraft. A U.S. F-16 fired a Harpoon missile, which homes in on radar signals, and a second U.S. plane, an F-16 fighter-bomber, dropped two cluster bombs on the site. The extent of damage was not immediately known. Pilots consider it a hostile act if radar "paints" their aircraft with its beam, or locks-on to the plane. "Painting" and "locking-on" are preliminaries to firing anti-aircraft missiles.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Clinton promised the United States "would not shrink from challenges" abroad during his tenure. "When our vital interests are challenged," he said, "or the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act — with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary."

Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said "it's out that the attack "was consistent with previous practice, and President Clinton supports it."

Mr. Stephanopoulos, Mr. Clinton's director of communications, avoided characterising Iraq's motives in turning on the radar set, but he added, "We continue to hold the position that they must



Iraq's ambassador to the U.N., Nizar Hamdun, Wednesday watches a live broadcast of U.S. President Bill Clinton's inauguration (AFP photo)

comply with all U.N. resolutions," Mr. Stephanopoulos said. Mr. Clinton had approved "past practices" in reacting to Iraq's activity, rather than approving specific acts; "We expect to continue that," he added.

The U.S. position, he said, is the same as stated "many, many times: We expect full compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. As far as the military situation goes, we will continue the past practices."

Asked if the Russian demand that the United States seek specific Security Council approval for military action compromises the international consensus on Iraq, Mr. Stephanopoulos replied, "I think what happened today (Thursday) is a reflection of the determination that the Clinton administration will have in that area," he added. When Iraqi radar "illuminates our pilots, we are going to protect our pilots."

Mr. Boucher emphasised that the United States consulted with France before launching the January 17 cruise missile attack against an Iraqi nuclear fabrication plant. The attack was in response to continued Iraqi violations of the U.N. resolutions on the no-fly zones.

Under-secretary General Jan Ellison said that "the humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations will remain essential in 1993."

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## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan, Ukraine discuss joint companies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad Thursday met with Mr. Vladimir Paizov, the Ukrainian Minister of Minerals, to discuss the prospects of setting up joint Jordan-Ukrainian companies. Mr. Awad and Mr. Paizov reviewed scopes of potential cooperation and investment and Jordanian laws on encouraging investments. The two sides also discussed trade and economic cooperation.

### Deputy Alawneh visits RJ cargo office

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Agriculture Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Mohammad Al Alawneh visited Thursday the cargo department of Royal Jordanian (RJ). Mr. Alawneh, a former agriculture minister, was familiarised with the department's sections and facilities. The Irbid deputy commended the RJ's development and praised the cargo department's role in serving Jordanian farmers and the agriculture sector in the Kingdom. RJ ships Jordanian agricultural produce to Europe with two weekly cargo flights to London and three to Maastricht. The national carrier also transports some produce aboard its passenger flights.

### Car accidents take 9 lives, 156 injured

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine people were killed and 156 injured in 343 car accidents in Jordan during the first week of January 1993, according to the weekly statistical report issued by the Traffic Department. The department said the number of accidents dropped by 43 from the week before. Of the total number of accidents, it said, 204 occurred in Amman, 47 in Zarqa, 30 in Irbid, 24 in Mafrag, 24 in the Balqa governorate, 9 in Madaba, 5 in Aqaba, 5 in the Badia regions and 4 in Tafleeh.

### Lectures to explain earthquake

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific day entitled "Causes of Earthquakes and Their Impact on Structures" will be organised by the mining and geology section of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) on Jan. 30. The day, which will be opened by Public Works and Housing Minister Saad Hayel Surour, will include lectures on the geology of Jordan, the seismic monitoring networks and the seismology of the Jordan Valley rift.

### Health centre opens in Souf

JERASH (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees opened Thursday a new health centre in Souf refugee camp near Jerash. The centre, which will offer health care to about 15,000 Palestinian refugees living in the camp, was established at a cost of \$109,000.

### Desertification seminar to open Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on desertification in Jordan will be opened Monday at the Teachers Club in Amman. Representatives of several ministries, universities and the private sector will participate in the seminar, which is organised by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The four-day seminar aims to draw attention to the dangers inherent in desertification which threatens many dry regions of the world. It also aims to spread awareness of ways to solve problems resulting from desertification.

### Remote sensing discussed at RJGC

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Committee for Remote Sensing held a meeting Thursday at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) and discussed the prospect of introducing concepts related to remote sensing in school curricula. The meeting reviewed the committee's activities in Jordan, including a project on locating appropriate sites for building dams in various parts of the Kingdom. It also reviewed the committee's coordination with Jordanian universities in spreading awareness of the concepts of remote sensing among students. The committee comprises representatives of various ministries, government departments and Jordanian universities.

### ESCPWA holds transplant seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The transport and communications section of the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCPWA) will organise in Amman Saturday a meeting for experts in the field of transport in ESCPWA's member states. The meeting, organised in cooperation with the United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTDC), aims to introduce the Multimodal Transport system to ESCPWA member states.

### Irbid marks Arbour Day

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid governorate marked Thursday, Arbor Day, by organising a celebration which included planting a large number of trees at Al Nuzha Park in Irbid. Irbid Governor Faysal Abbadi participated in the celebration along with a number of government officials. Director of the Irbid Agriculture Department Noureddin Al Shaboul delivered an address at the ceremony, in which he outlined efforts exerted by his department to plant trees in the governorate.

### Hai Nazzal plants 500 trees

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizens in Hai Nazzal area Friday participated in a voluntary day which included planting 500 forest tree saplings in public parks. The activities of the day were organised by charitable and voluntary societies in the area, as an expression of their intervention with the local society.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.

### LECTURES

- \* Lectures and illustrations on "The Sublime Landscape of Turner: A Comparative Study" by Mrs. Nelly Lama at the British Council — 6 p.m.
- \* Lecture in Arabic, entitled "The Giants" Race and the Fate of the World Economy" by Dr. Ezzel Al Bustani, economy professor at the University of Baghdad, at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.



Spanish foreign minister briefs Sharif Zeid

### Spanish minister ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Saturday concludes a three-day visit to Jordan and leaves for Damascus. Mr. Solana, who will also visit Egypt, arrived in Amman Wednesday and held discussions on Spanish-Jordanian relations and the Middle East with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

A statement from the Prime Ministry said Sharif Zeid told Mr. Solana the Arab World expects the United Nations to adopt a unified standard with regard to its

resolutions, otherwise, it would risk losing its credibility.

It said Jordan and Spain agreed that U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, calling for the repatriation of 413 Palestinians exiled from Israel, should be implemented.

The statement said the prime minister and the Spanish foreign minister agreed to promote Jordan-Spanish cooperation in various fields, and in a manner reflecting the strong ties of friendship between their countries.

### Jordanians urge end of sanctions on Iraq

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Leading Jordanian personalities Friday urged the government to break an international embargo clamped on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In a statement made available to the Associated Press (AP), more than 300 notables said Jordan "should spearhead Arab efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people."

"The unjust sanctions on Iraq should be lifted and that could be done by discarding the oppressive international resolutions and ending the official Jordanian embargo against Iraq," the statement said.

"It is our duty to struggle and make tangible steps to break those sanctions and reject the government's excuses justifying its compliance with the resolutions of the new world order which is inimical to our (Arab) Nation, our religion and our national interests," it said.

### Italian aid distributed in Jordan

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Italian military aircraft loaded with food, medical supplies and clothing for Jordan's needy arrived in Amman Thursday, said Ernesto Oliviero, the founder of 'Sermig,' an Italian peace group.

"Thirty years ago I founded Sermig as a point of peace to try to create harmony all over the world," Mr. Oliviero said at a press gathering Thursday. "Today I brought the thirteenth aircraft of aid to Jordan as a form of solidarity of the Italian people with the needy people of Jordan."

He said Sermig does not only distribute aid in the form of food and clothing, but it is also responsible for the initiation of projects around the world "supported by youth, financially endorsed by people and animated by these same people."

Mr. Oliviero said these projects aim at self-development for the people they benefit.

The Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, said Mr. Oliviero's work has been extensive for many years, in many different areas in the world.

"Ernesto is a living miracle," Dr. Bettini said.

The third is the people of Iraq who are most in need of food and medicine," Father Musa said.

Sermig, which is a spiritual community and not a political party, has 600 active members, Mr. Oliviero said.

About 300,000 Italians contributed to aid shipments to Jordan, valued at \$10 million, since the end of the Gulf war, Mr. Oliviero added.

He said Sermig does not only distribute aid in the form of food and clothing, but it is also responsible for the initiation of projects around the world "supported by youth, financially endorsed by people and animated by these same people."

He linked the new law on contact with the PLO to Israel's expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians to Lebanon.

"I would like to make it clear that in no way will we consider the passing of this law in any way a compensation for the war crimes committed by Mr. Rabin when he deported the 400 Palestinians."

Asked about reported comments by Palestinian leaders linking the issue of the Palestinians expelled from Israel to the continuation of Middle East peace talks, Mr. Boucher replied that the "parties really should focus their attention on the essential issues of peace that are being discussed in the bilaterals, and not allow themselves to be diverted into other issues."

He said ending the ban on contacts with the PLO was a positive step, nevertheless. "No doubt this is a positive step. It ends, it corrects actually a major breach by a country which proclaims to go through peaceful negotiations."

"We sincerely wish Mr. Clinton success as president of the United States. We hope he will

have condemned last month's explosion.

Israelis have met repeatedly with PLO officials in recent years despite the ban on such contacts that was lifted last week, a legislator said Friday.

Dedi Zucker of the left-wing Meretz party also confirmed a report that he met secretly with Mr. Arafat in Tunis in 1986. He indicated his contacts with the PLO leader continued for two or three years.

The Yedioth Achronot daily published a photograph of Mr. Zucker seated opposite Mr. Arafat, with the newspaper's reporter Amnon Kapeluk.

Mr. Kapeluk wrote that he promised to keep the story secret until parliament repealed the 1986 "anti-terror" amendment.

Yedioth suggested that government officials, including former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, knew of other meetings between Israelis and PLO officials over the years but did not stop them.

Among Israelis who attended such meetings were members of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party including Abba Eban, a former foreign minister; legislator Yael Dayan, daughter of former Defence Minister Moshe Dayan; and Ora Namir, now a minister in Mr. Rabin's cabinet.

Some of the meetings apparently were held under a loophole in the law that allowed contacts with Palestinians at international conferences.

Mr. Zucker declined to confirm meetings between others and PLO officials but said he believed he was the highest ranking Israeli to have met Mr. Arafat.

## House to discuss civil service Deputies demand cigarette surcharge

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament will Sunday "exchange views" with the government on civil service appointments since the beginning of 1990 to check any irregularities and favouritism in granting work opportunities to job seekers.

The debate comes at the request of 15 deputies who, on Jan. 13, demanded that the House discuss alleged "injustices" in civil service appointments.

The deputies asked for a government list of names and graduation dates of all citizens hired by government agencies and public companies since the beginning of 1990 until the end of 1992, so that the House can "a serious and objective debate" of what they called an "imbalance" that intensifies the social threat of unemployment.

The government cited procedural irregularities for refusing to provide the House with the list, after one deputy said the debate might lead to a vote of no confidence in the government. Deputy Prime Minister and Education

Minister Thouqan al Hindawi said the government was "infallible," and might have made some mistakes in awarding work opportunities, but insisted deputies used proper channels charted by the internal regulations of the House for questioning the government.

The minister argued that Article 104 of the House's internal regulations, according to which deputies made their request, says that Parliament and government can "exchange points of view" on issues of public interest if 10 or more deputies demand so in writing.

The article, he said, does not allow for raising a vote of no confidence in the government, and the list of appointments will therefore be denied.

Deputies argued they were not aiming for a vote of no confidence and had the legal grounds for demanding the list.

The House finally decided to discuss the deputies' request in its session on Sunday without settling the debate or asking the

government to provide the list.

In its session, the House will also discuss a report by the Ministry of Social Development on alleged manipulation of the results of the national lottery.

In a report to the House, the ministry said the General Union of Voluntary Societies, which supervises the lottery, had referred a case to the General Prosecutor involving alleged illegal manipulation of the lottery's result after a committee decided the case needed to be investigated.

The House will also listen to the minister's answers to a number of deputies' questions on issues of public interest.

The House Foreign Affairs and Palestinian committees will convene separately Monday to discuss the latest developments on the Palestinian issue.

Meanwhile 57 members of the Lower House of Parliament have demanded a government surcharge on cigarettes and vehicle exhaust fumes and that revenues from these surcharges be transferred to the Al Amal Cancer

Centre, scheduled to open by the end of 1993.

In a memorandum to the government, the group suggested that a 20 fils surcharge be added to each cigarette packet, JD 2 be imposed annually on car exhausts, and unspecified fees be imposed on factories contributing to pollution.

The memorandum said cigarette smoke and car and factory fumes are among the main cancer causing factors.

The Al Amal Cancer Centre, which plans to offer free medical services to cancer patients, will need substantial funds to carry out its task the memorandum said.

It added that the Centre will have to re-pay a \$5 million loan from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank over 15 years, compounding its financial responsibilities.

The national committee in charge of fund-raising for new centre announced at least JD 3 million will be needed annually to cover operational costs.

### France, Germany stress need to comply with 799

By Elias Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a joint press conference in Amman Thursday by the French and German ambassadors to Jordan, French Ambassador Denis Bouchard said U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, calling for the immediate return of the 413 Palestinians exiled by Israel, must be implemented if the U.N. wants to maintain its credibility.

Mr. Bouchard also said the assumption of the U.S. presidency by Bill Clinton would lead to a change in U.S. policy towards Iraq with the disappearance of the "personal factor."

The programme, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the World Food Programme, benefited 10,309 women and 10,332 children.

The QAF implemented a nutrition programme targeted at pre-school age children and women taking part in vocational training programmes.

The programme, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the World Food Programme, benefited 1,798 children and 2,336 women.

Another nutrition programme was the effort of the Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The programme covered 17 locations in Aqaba, and targeted children aged between 6 months and 6 years-old and pregnant women.

Benefiting from this programme were 2,500 children and 7,973 women.

It was supplemented by a health education programme, including information on children's growth monitoring, detection of early signs of malnutrition and first aid.

A third project, initiated in 1992 in cooperation with the Canadian Care (Cooperative of American Relief Everywhere). Targeted children under six years.

Benefiting from this programme were 6,034 children.

Mr. Razzaz, the son of the late

Munis Al Razzaz, a prominent leader of the Ba'th Party, is a novelist and columnist at Al Dustour. He gave up political writing in Al Dustour, following the attack by the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq in 1990.

The party's general assembly elected Mazen Al Saket, Samir Habashneh, Mohammad Daoudieh, Mahmoud Al Amlah, Mohammad Al Bashir, Mohammad Al Qaisi, Muwaffaq Al Rahafeh, Mousa Al Araiqi, Ayman Al Masri and Saeed Bann Hani to its 10-member executive committee.

The general assembly will seek legal licensing by the government within the next two months. Following the licensing process the party will hold its first constituent meeting.

The general assembly gave the

### Al Razzaz to head JADP

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Arab Democratic Party (JADP) Thursday elected Munis Al Razzaz as its secretary general, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

Mr. Razzaz, the son of the late Munis Al Razzaz, a prominent leader of the Ba'th Party, is a novelist and columnist at Al Dustour. He gave up political writing in Al Dustour, following the attack by the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq in 1990.

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## Law on corruption?

THE FIGHT against corruption in government is a worthy cause that obviously enjoys wide public support and is definitely prompted by so many stories and yet few proven cases of abuse of public office. But the crusade for clean government is also engrossed by political intrigue and sensationalism that might push some of us, like our honourable legislators, to cross the fine line of drafting effective anti-corruption laws into the domain of electioneering. There is a difference here in that the latter causes not only unnecessary noise but could also encroach on individual rights without effectively achieving the purpose behind it.

It is in this light in fact that the draft law on the illegal acquisition of wealth has to be seen and addressed. The as-yet-unfinished bill is expected to cause a confrontation between the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament when they debate it in a joint session soon after the Senate asked for amendments in it.

To fight alleged corruption in the country, we do not need new laws at all. So why the two houses are bothered with debating the legislation in the first place is unknown to us. There are enough laws in the country that can sufficiently check and weed out any illegal practices in government. What might be missing is the will and courage to activate them when necessary. Also, the draft law that was passed by the Lower House this month after deputies rejected the amendments of the Senate only inflates a bureaucracy that parliamentarians and government officials alike contend is plagued by inefficiency.

The proposed bill calls for the creation of a special department at the Ministry of Justice to monitor and keep accounts of the liquid and fixed assets of both high-ranking government office holders and legislators. The proposed department has the right to ask for financial statements from senior public officials upon appointment and to periodically thereafter check against unlawful increases of wealth. If it finds evidence establishing any illegal practices, the department can refer suspects to the "concerned authorities."

That, we believe, is an unnecessary waste of time and resources. Other judicial and government agencies can perform exactly the same task. The tax department, for instance, should have access to information on individuals' wealth and annual income. Its responsibilities can be expanded to monitor and then report questionable increases in officials' wealth during their term of office to the "concerned authorities."

The fight against corruption can best be launched by consolidating the present laws and rules of ethics and democracy in society. That means enforcing all laws and holding all citizens accountable under them.

It is in this direction that Parliament should steer its efforts, utilising the remaining time of its current session to complete unfinished business that can strengthen the pillars of our embryonic democratic process and put under more scrutiny the performance of government.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BILL CLINTON, who has become the 42nd president of the United States, has an unenviable inheritance left over to him by President Bush, whose behaviour and policies smeared American's reputation everywhere in the world, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Mr. Bush, according to many observers, has handed over to Mr. Clinton an inheritance that would continue to harm America's interests should the new man in the White House continue to pursue the same double standard policies of his predecessor, the paper said. By having asked the White House officials who had perpetrated the Gulf war to retain their posts, Mr. Clinton is more likely to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Bush, the paper pointed out. Therefore, it said, the Arabs should not count on a change in Washington's policies that might or might never come, rather they ought to rely on their will to bring about the change, and this can be done through ending their differences and unifying their position before the world. The continued weak Arab stand, due to lack of solidarity and coordination, can only encourage the new administration to follow the same policies charted by Bush and his men with regard to the Gulf and Palestine alike, said the paper. It said that the time has come for the Arabs to realise that any change in U.S. behaviour towards them can be triggered by real and serious change in their present stand and their resolve to secure their own rights and safeguard their own interests.

FAHED AL FANEK, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, suggested that Jordan should have an international newspaper, to be called Jordan International, similar to other Arabic and foreign dailies which are being printed in European capitals and find their way to countries all over the world. The writer said that Jordan has a major role to play in the Palestine question and in numerous Arab causes, and the Jordanian people's stand during the Gulf war and Israel's continued atrocities against the Palestinians should be heard not in Jordan alone, but in as many countries as possible so that the Kingdom's voice can reach various parts of the world. The writer said that in view of the huge amounts of funds required for the project, the three Jordanian dailies can make a joint effort towards its execution. Such a newspaper, he said, could attract advertisements from various nations and would be used to stimulate the tourism industry in Jordan featuring the country's huge resources of archaeological sites. He said that the projected newspaper would attract the best writers and so ensure a wide circulation in the Arab World and beyond.

## Fateh anniversary — giving credit where it is due

By Pascal Karimi

Dec. 31, 1992-Jan. 1, 1993 marked the 28th anniversary of the Palestinian armed struggle against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. This date also marked the 36th anniversary of the creation of the Fateh movement.

The occupation of Gaza and Sinai by Israel in 1956, in conjunction with the attack on Egypt by Britain and France, was a turning point for the Palestinians. The latter came to realise that the Arab states will not be able to return them to their homeland, Palestine. As a result, the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Hamka Al Tahrik Al Watani Al Fatah), whose initials, in reverse in Arabic, gave the name Fateh) was created.

Some Palestinians do not appreciate the struggle led by Fateh since its inception in 1956, and particularly after 1967. It was and still is the backbone of the Palestinian liberation movement. It has been and is now a very important component of the PLO. We must give credit to whom and where it is due. Hopefully, this article will make those who try for one reason or another to belittle the role of Fateh in the Palestine national movement change their mind. But it is not intended to overlook the laudable Palestinian national struggle of other Palestinian movements, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP) or the Islamic Hamas.

After the occupation of Palestine by Israel, following the 1948 war, there were numerous raids by Palestinians on Israel's borders, particularly in 1954, from Gaza Strip, Jordan and Syria. Those who committed the raids, called infiltrators, were subsequently called Fidayin, meaning those who sacrifice themselves. The late Abu Jihad (Khalil al Wazir) an important leader of Fateh, participated in the first raid on Israel in 1954 from Gaza Strip. Those raids were disorganized, but were encouraged by some Arab countries. Some of

those raids were motivated by the Palestinians who were trying to recuperate some of the properties left behind after being expelled by Israel. The Fidayin raids were used by Israel as a pretext for the invasion of Sinai and the consequent attack on Egypt by Britain and France in 1956, as mentioned above. As is well-known, Israel, Britain and France withdrew their forces from Egyptian territory, in compliance with several resolutions of the General Assembly issued at its emergency sessions held during November 1956. The Security Council was deadlocked because of the use of veto by Britain and France.

The first shot inaugurating the Palestinian resistance against Israel was heard at midnight on Dec. 31, 1964-Jan. 1, 1965. It was the blowing up of a water pumping installation belonging to Israel near the Hebron-Bethlehem road. The blowing up of the installation was carried out by Al Asifa, the military arm of Fateh, which was then unknown to the public. This resistance continued to this day and was transformed into the intifada as of December 1987.

Following the above action, leaflets were distributed to Beirut newspapers containing Military Communiqué No. 1 signed by the General Command of Al Asifa. The Communiqué mentioned, among other things: "On the night of Friday, Dec. 31, 1964-Jan. 1, 1965, detachments of our strike forces went into action, performing all the tasks assigned to them in the occupied territories and returning safely to their bases." It then addressed the Israelis, warning them not to take any action against peaceful Arab civilians wherever they might be because "our forces, deeming such actions war crimes, will reply in kind."

In a second communiqué, which was of a political character, Al Asifa announced that its forces were to prove to the enemy and to the world that the Palestinian people were not dead and that the armed struggle is the only way to achieve victory and the

return to Palestine." In expressing the will of the revolutionary Palestinian people, Al Asifa forces were fully conscious of the difficult political and military struggle which they have to lead, but they relied on their own forces and on the strength and vigour of the Palestinian people to overcome all obstacles.

Initially, resistance operations were on a limited scale. They were confined to the destruction of isolated installations, water conduits and the like. Fateh, which covers Al Asifa, had at that time limited resources to enable it to carry out big operations. Right from the beginning, Fateh tried to enliven young Palestinians from the extreme right and the extreme left. They did not need to renounce their personal opinions but they had to cut off any connection with any party to which they belonged. They have faith only in the armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine. Indeed, the absence of any ideology for Fateh is one of its main characteristics.

In explaining the reasons for creating the Fateh movement one of its leaders declared: "We came to the conclusion that unless we decide to take our destiny in our hands, no person will do anything for us. Experience taught us that the usurpers ignored our appeals, our declarations and our petitions. Thus we had no choice; we had to take up arms."

One of the acute problems which faced the founders of Fateh was the question of funds. They could not solicit funds from anybody as they were in clandestinity. Most of the founders, being highly educated, looked for work in the Gulf states. Thus, Yasser Arafat went to Kuwait in 1957 to work as an engineer. Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf) followed him as a teacher. Abu Yousef (Mohammed Najar) went to Qatar, and Abu Jihad (Khalil al Wazir) also to the Gulf. Two petroleum engineers, Abu Lutf (Farouq Qadoumi) and Kamal Adwan worked in Saudi Arabia and Qatar respectively. Khaled Has-

san (Abu Said) worked as secretary of the Municipality of Kuwait. All of them contributed to the funds of Fateh. Hani Hassan, who had a substantial and successful enterprise in Germany, contributed largely to Fateh. After accumulating the necessary funds, they left the Gulf states. Fateh established a Palestinian review called "Filistinuna" (Our Palestine) which was then supervised by Abu Jihad.

After the Arab defeat in 1967, guerrilla warfare by Fateh commanded a great appeal to the Arab masses. Fateh announced that it was transferring its headquarters to the newly-occupied territories. Arafat and some of his assistants crossed the Jordan River to mastermind the bold new strategy. David Hirst in his book "The Gun and the Olive Branch" says about this event the following: "Hitherto, the Fedayin had largely confined themselves to hit and run incursions, but now Arafat had the opportunity to forge a self-sustaining guerrilla movement out of that segment of his people, well over a million, who had fallen under direct Israeli rule."

In going over the history of Fateh since its first resistance act in 1965 one can rank it among the noble self-sacrificing movements. Its history is marked by tragedies, but it recorded honourable feats during its struggle and no fair-minded person can detract from its achievements. It has sustained the morale of the Arab nation and awakened the Palestinian people after the tragic defeat of the Arab states in 1967. It is Fateh which first started the guerrilla resistance movement against Israeli occupation. It is this movement which had greatly contributed to putting the Palestine problem on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in 1974. It is perhaps one of the first movements whose top leaders fell victim to Israeli terrorism, among whom were Kamal Adwan, Kamal Nasser, Abu Yousef (Mohammad Najar), Abu Jihad (Khalil al Wazir) and Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf).

The following is an editorial that appeared in the Jan. 20 issue of the Israeli English-language daily *The Jerusalem Post*.

Bill Clinton's campaign promises to make fundamental changes in the way America is run were extravagant. But such is the nature of challengers' rhetoric. Inevitably, he scales down expectations on assuming office.

Nor is it surprising that he should form an executive machinery run by warmed-over remnants of the Carter administration — hardly harbingers of revolutionary change. After all, the Democrats were in government only in four out of the past 24 years. Unless he wanted complete novices, Clinton had to turn to Carter Democrats — officials who ran one of the most miserably unsuccessful administrations in the history of the United States.

But this is small comfort for Israel and its friends. Carter may be remembered as the sponsor of the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. But he and his administration worked tirelessly against Israel, first in collaboration with the USSR to impose a settlement on Israel, then in supporting the Arab side in the negotiations.

Now Clinton spokesmen are trying to aver that only "Likud supporters, hardliners and neo-conservatives" are opposed to regurgitated Carter policies. But even super-dovish liberals saw the Carter administration as hopeless.

Reform Rabbi Alexander Schindler, who headed the Presidents' Conference of Major Jewish Organisations in the Carter era, has asserted that "Carter managed to jeopardise the security of Israel," and worried about "the expectations Carter is raising in the Arab World." Abe Foxman, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League, has said Carter's Middle East policies were "simplistic, preachy, and involved holding Israel to standards that were unreasonable..."

Now Israelis must hope that Clinton's cabinet, for all its reliance on ex-Carterites, will be less biased. American Jewish leaders, who fervently supported Clinton, point to the outstanding pro-Israel statements made by him during the campaign.

He praised Israel's strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor, vowed to "do everything I can to see that the Arab states end this boycott," demanded Arab concessions in the peace negotiations, and promised that the Clinton administration will treat the Arab-Israeli conflict as one in which the survival of Israel is at stake." This is certainly more than Carter ever said when he ran for election.

But Clinton's appointments make it difficult to be optimistic. Neither his Secretary of State Warren Christopher, nor National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, nor Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff — all ex-Carter men — have ever shown sympathy for Israel's position.

They were all involved in formulating a Middle East policy which sought to return Israel to its U.S. role of F-15s to Saudi Arabia.

Thus Clinton's appointees to foreign policy positions represent neither mainstream Jewish-American opinion nor a centrist Israeli position. On Middle East issues, his administration is composed almost exclusively of Yossi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni counterparts.

The American Jewish community is uneasy about these officials. But instead of demanding the appointment of known pro-Israel figures, it has decided the absence of Jews in the new administration.

Clinton's appointment of loan guarantees by the Bush administration, demanding that the Arab-Israeli conflict will be linked to the complete cessation of settlement activity. It has also actively lobbied for negotiations with the PLO. One of its leaders has even defended the U.S. sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia.

What Israel and its friends need is not Jewish officials who perform somersaults to prove they are impartial, but intelligent executives who will follow the eminently sensible policies articulated by Clinton in his campaign.

## LETTERS

## Hope for wiser U.S. Mideast policy

Following is a cable sent by Lawyer Saleem Swaiss, of the Front of National Action to the U.S. President Bill Clinton:

Dear Sir,

We appreciated your stand against the war in Vietnam as well as your policy for domestic peace in America.

We hope that you will have the courage of J.F. Kennedy, the good-heartedness of J. Carter and the spirit of justice of Ramsey Clark.

We feel sorry for the blind support you lent to the crimes of Bush who has been waging a dirty war against the people of Iraq for 30 months, causing, with the embargo, the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

Bush's name will be mentioned in the Arab history side by side with the one of Cyrus the Persian and Hulegu the Mongol. The first one destroyed Babylon, the centre of world civilisation in antiquity, the second destroyed Baghdad, the centre of world civilisation in the Middle East.

Bush acted the same when he boasted that he took Iraq to the pre-industrial era, a crime which is more horrible than the American crime in Hiroshima.

We hope that you will act wisely, stop the aggression against Iraq and lift the embargo enforced upon the elders and children, deprived of medicine and milk, and serve the interest of the American nation, not those of tribal families of the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, who represent the corrupt regimes in the Middle East.

We wish you success in serving humanity and the small nations aspiration to independence and peace.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Confusion prevails in Iraq truce

(Continued from page 1)

try to belittle the significance of the Iraqi initiative announced by the Revolution Command Council," he added.

He said that despite "the provocative aggressive action of the plane, Iraq is committed to the text and spirit of the (ceasefire) statement of the Revolution Command Council."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said U.S. cluster bombs had set ablaze a fertilizer storage area and damaged crops, but there were no casualties in Thursday's attack.

Some foreign diplomats said they doubted that Baghdad authorities would deliberately undermine Iraq's position by provoking allied attack and said that the Iraqi government appeared sincerely interested in better relations with the United States.

Although Baghdad is unpredictable, they discounted the idea that Iraq would be testing Mr. Clinton's resolve at a time when Iraq says the new president needs several months to calmly reconsider the "no-fly" zones established in northern and southern Iraq.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S. Ambassador Edward Perkins minimised the skirmishes Thursday and Friday.

"At the moment, it seems that Baghdad is complying with the manifestations of the Security Council," he said.

"If that's so, I hope that this will cool down the heat, so to speak," Mr. Perkins said.

Another 19 U.N. weapons inspectors arrived from Bahrain on Friday, joining 52 who reached the Iraqi capital the day before after a mere two-week hiatus caused by the confrontation between Iraq and the West.

"The trip was quiet, without incident," said Paul Brough, the American head of a 25-member chemical weapons destruction team, some of whose members arrived Friday to join those already here.

There was no major work for the inspectors during the day. Resumption of the destruction of chemical weapons was to begin Saturday.

Most Iraqi officials and news media have been appealing to Mr. Clinton to change U.S. policy towards their country.

On Friday, the Babil newspaper said that both Iraq and the United States should have avoided confrontation in their own self-interest.

"In fact, they need more mutual cooperation in trade, culture, and technology," said Babil, which added: "The United States should not ignore Iraq when it wants to set its goals in the region."

Iraq considers the air-exclusion zones imposed by the United States and its allies to be a violation of its sovereignty.

The northern zone was declared in April 1991 ostensibly to protect Kurdish rebels from Iraqi attacks, and the southern zone was imposed in August to protect rebellious Shiites.

There have been a series of allied bombing sorties and missile attacks on Iraqi sites in the zones since Jan. 13, but the one Thursday was the first since Mr. Clinton took office Wednesday.

A third victim of Sunday's cruise missile strike on Iraq has died from his injuries, the ruling Baath Party newspaper reported Friday.

Mazen Ali Al Helou, hit by shrapnel in the head, died in hospital three days after Sunday's attack, it said.

In the attack, the United States fired cruise missiles at what it described as a nuclear fabrication facility in a suburb of Baghdad. Iraq said the site was a machine tool factory.

Two women were killed when one of the missiles smashed the lobby of Baghdad's leading hotel, Al Rashid. Washington said the missile was deflected by anti-aircraft fire, but Iraq accused the United States of aiming at the hotel.

Helou's death takes to at least 46 the official Iraqi toll of people killed in four days of U.S.-led missile and air strikes launched in the dying days of George Bush's administration.

A father and son died in the first strike outside the southern city of Basra on Jan. 13, when their home was hit.

At least four of the dead were civilians.

Al Thawra also carried an opinion poll suggesting most Iraqis supported Iraq's peace overtures following the arrival of Mr. Clinton at the White House Wednesday.

"A public opinion poll showed that 82 per cent of people support the (ruling) Revolution Command Council's ceasefire decision," it said.

The remaining 18 per cent rejected it as a climbdown on the part of Iraq and said they were doubtful the new U.S. administration would respond positively to Iraq's useful overtures," it added.

Al Thawra also highlighted the reopening of a baby milk factory destroyed two years ago to the

day by the United States and its allies in the Gulf war as a germ warfare plant.

The factory is one of Iraq's most cherished symbols of Gulf war destruction.

"The leadership of Iraq under President Saddam Hussein has great faith in dialogue to solve differences between nations," Al Thawra quoted Prime Minister Mohammad Hanza Al Zubaidi as saying at the opening ceremony.

Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, quoted by Iraqi Television, told a visiting delegation that Iraq's ceasefire declaration on Mr. Clinton's inauguration day and its offer of talks to the new U.S. president was "to reaffirm Iraq's seriousness, good faith to solve problems through dialogue."

Iraqi newspapers reporting on Iraq's declaration of a ceasefire and offer of "constructive talks" to Mr. Clinton, said Thursday it had not acted from a position of weakness.

Most were cautious about predicting change in U.S. policy towards Iraq under Mr. Clinton.

"Iraq's goodwill initiative was made from a position of strength and steadfastness," the army newspaper Al Qadissiya said in an editorial.

After a little while, the British media produced a further story for "proof." This alleged that the parts of the missile found in the crater showed that the missile had been manufactured by the Americans firm making the cruise, had been planted there by the Iraqis, who, it was said, used pieces from missiles collected during "Desert Storm" in 1991.

This was nothing but another fantastic yarn because foreign correspondents living in the Rashid told me half an hour after

The writer has just ended a week-long visit to Iraq.

THE CRUISE missile attack on the Rashid Hotel here last Sunday night was a fine example of collusion between the U.S. and Britain. The division of roles between the two was: The U.S. provided the missile and the U.K. provided the living cover-story — that the attack had not been by an American cruise but by an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile, launched against the 44 cruises sent to strike the Iraqi capital that night.

This collusion became evident when, within half an hour of the news of the hit on the Rashid, the B.B.C. — and from London, not Baghdad, was saying that the hotel had been struck by an Iraqi missile, not the American cruise. That this extraordinary story — the victim of the attack being the attacker — should be prepared with such speed can only mean that the story was ready before hand.

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Investigating this claim, CNN cameras showed that the basement was a large empty space used as an air raid shelter by hotel guests and people in the nearby quarter. As for U.S. claims about killing and injuring Islamic scholars and journalists, it must be remembered that the Bush

missile attack that they had picked up those missile pieces on the scene immediately after the attack. Thus, the Iraqis had neither the time nor the opportunity to do the "planting" and if they had tried to do such a thing they most certainly would have been discovered because the site was swarming with hotel guests, police, journalists, doctors and spectators as soon as the missile struck the hotel.

Furthermore, the British story was visibly disproven by a film shot from the roof of the hotel during the raid by two young and intrepid camerawomen of CNN. This film, which I saw, clearly shows the missile whooshing in to slam into the building below the recording eye of the camera which was violently jerked upwards by the explosion ten floors below when the projectile hit the hotel just outside the hotel lobby.

Nevertheless, Britain's official line, that it was the Iraqis who attacked the Rashid, was reinforced by the egregious British Prime Minister John Major when he continued to insist that the Iraqis were the culprits and then said that this theory was backed by "British military experts"; some "experts".

After two days of trying to pass the blame onto the Iraqis, the U.S. owned up and said that the hit on the hotel was made by a cruise. But not deliberately, only by accident after the missile was struck by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire so

that it was then diverted from its course to precisely hit the Rashid. It is impossible to accept this version — which also makes the Iraqis culpable — because the hotel is 20 kilometres from the avowed target of the raid, a large factory on the other side of Baghdad. Also the Rashid is the only tall building in that immediate vicinity.

But why should the Americans want to target a hotel which lodged some 700 guests, from 51 countries, attending an international Islamic conference, as well as 95 journalists, including the CNN team?

According to members of the CNN team, it was precisely their presence which was the provocation because, during the coalition campaign against Iraq, the cameras of CNN, and the commentary by Peter Arnett, simply by telling the truth, did a great deal of harm to the coalition attempt to control the news. It must be recalled that during that war foreign correspondents were repeatedly warned, because the coalition wanted to attack the Rashid which, it was claimed, concealed a "command and control centre" in its basement.

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administration, by imposing and tightening the strict U.N. sanctions regime, especially on medicines — some of which were paid for by Iraq before its invasion of Kuwait — has condemned to a slow death thousands of Iraqi children whose mortality rate has trebled since sanctions began. Compared to this, the lives of a few hundred anti-American Islamic delegates and inconvenient journalists is a minor matter.

The Iraqi government is itself deliberately targeted because, as the Minister of Industry Dr. Amr Al Saadeh told me, the Rashid was an important Iraqi asset, the only government-owned hotel in the city, a symbol all Iraqis of their country's modernity, and well-known throughout the world because it has served as a base for foreign correspondents.

Why should Britain pursue Iraq with such malicious spite, taking an attitude more vicious than that adopted by France, for instance? The consensus of Iraqi opinion is that Britain has never forgiven Iraq for its nationalisation of the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1972. It was through this company that Britain controlled Iraq. That act was meticulously planned and organised by President Saddam Hussein, then vice-president, and set a bad precedent and pattern for other Third World nationalisations of western assets.

Air raids on Baghdad are peculiar things. I watched the Sunday strike from the seventh floor balcony of my hotel, the Palestine-Meridien, alongside the Tigris. The building shuddered when nearby heavy anti-aircraft batteries loosed-off so the night sky was filled with bursts of light from exploding shells and the delicate patterning of red tracer.

But below the airshow the city was ablaze with all its street lights, traffic flowed on normally,

cars with their headlights still on and Saddam Hussein continued ranting on the television. Baghdad has, quite obviously, got used to air raids.

While all this was going on, I saw a bright light moving down the Tigris — just above eyelevel — which went zooming past the hotel. This was one of the cruise missiles going about its business. Since it was moving from north to south it must have been one of those launched from American ships in the Red Sea, on the other side of Arabia. Such are the marvels of modern military science.

Two mysteries remain about the Rashid affair: Did the warhead of the cruise missile which hit the Rashid explode, and if it did not, where did it land? It is clear to any visitor to the hotel that the warhead did not explode at the building. If it had, the hotel would have been devastated rather than damaged. And the unexploded warhead is not in the crater in the hotel garden. There are three possible explanations

for this curious situation: The missile was, indeed, hit by Iraqi groundfire and exploded high above the ground, scattering debris, some of which hit the hotel. Second, the missile broke up, after being hit by Iraqi fire, and the warhead fell in some undisclosed place. Third it could have been a special cruise, with a dud warhead or without an armed warhead, which was launched against the hotel.

The importance of establishing the truth of what happened at the Rashid is great now because the war of claim and counter-claim continues. The Iraqis did very well in northern Iraq on Thursday to observe their own ceasefire and not respond to provocative American attacks on Iraqi missile launchers. The U.S. claimed that these were attacked after the Iraqis "menaced" U.S. planes by "locking on" their radar. But who says the Iraqis did this? There is only the word of U.S. pilots who are partisan and whose word is not to be accepted as evidence. It is to Iraq's advantage to maintain the ceasefire while it is to the advantage of U.S. "hawks" to make it look as if it is Iraq breaking its own ceasefire, thus proving that Iraqis are not to be trusted. The trouble is that U.S. policy on Iraq is still influenced by second-line Bush administration officials like Djerjian and Aronson. The sooner Mr. Clinton moves his own team in at all levels, the better the chances of U.S.-Iraq understanding will be.

## Claims and counterclaims — the tug-of-war in Iraq's war arena

By G. H. Jansen

THE CRUISE missile attack on the Rashid Hotel here last Sunday night was a fine example of collusion between the U.S. and Britain. The division of roles between the two was: The U.S. provided the missile and the U.K. provided the living cover-story — that the attack had not been by an American cruise but by an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile, launched against the 44 cruises sent to strike the Iraqi capital that night.

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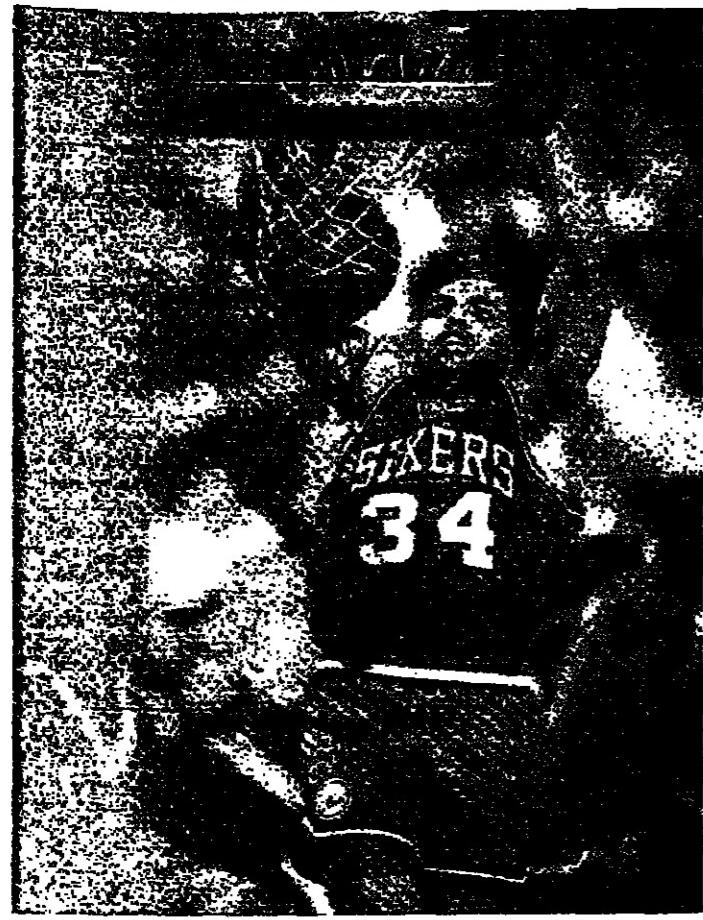
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Former 76ers star Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns goes up for a slam dunk.

## NBA bad boy fined another \$10,000

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The National Basketball Association Thursday fined Phoenix Suns forward Charles Barkley \$10,000 and suspended him one game without pay for his latest conduct lapse, vaulting over the scorer's table to pursue a referee.

NBA vice president Rod Thorn imposed the penalty after Barkley chided official Jim Clark after the two exchanged words at the end of the Knicks' 106-103 victory over the Suns at New York's Madison Square Garden Monday.

Because he was in a hurry, Barkley took the shortest route available, leaping over the side-line table and knocking out the Garden's computer scoring system on the way.

"Our rules are clear that players and coaches are to go immediately from the court to the locker room, both at halftime and at the end of the game, without any discussion with the game officials," Thorn said.

"Conduct such as Charles displayed Monday cannot be tolerated."

The escapade was reported to the League, and Thorn told Barkley he must sit out Thursday night's game between the Suns

and Cleveland Cavaliers in Richfield, Ohio.

"I made a mistake and they're going to suspend me for the game," Barkley said. "I just have to deal with it... I don't think it warranted a suspension. But I know what they got to do. They got to keep people coming, so they've got to control the image of the league. So I understand that."

Last season, when he was with Philadelphia, Barkley was fined \$10,000 and suspended for one game for spitting at fan. In 1990, he paid \$39,000 in fines, including a \$20,000 charge for a fight with Detroit's Bill Laimbeer and another \$5,000 for a running bet he had with Mark Jackson, then with the New York Knicks, over who would make big plays in games between the two teams.

The year before, his fines totalled \$45,000.

A year ago, Thorn reflected on Barkley's continuing conduct problems.

"It seems that with Charles, it's a thing," he said. "It just keeps happening. He's just got to cut it out."

And that was before Thorn imposed the \$10,000 fine for the spitting affair.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hirst joins Shearer on England injury list

**LONDON (R)** — David Hirst of Sheffield Wednesday could miss England's World Cup qualifier against San Marino next month with a leg injury, the second striker in doubt for the European group two match at Wembley. Hirst pulled a thigh muscle in his club's 1-1 draw at Ipswich in a League Cup quarter-final and manager Trevor Francis said the injury could rule the striker out for up to four weeks. Blackburn's Alan Shearer, who led the attack when England beat Turkey 4-0 in the previous qualifier at Wembley November 18, is in doubt for the February 17 match after a cartilage operation 10 days ago.

#### Lewis offers to fight Foreman for \$8 million

**NEW YORK (R)** — World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Lennox Lewis has offered to fight George Foreman for at least \$8 million, Lewis' promoter said Thursday. Foreman, the heavyweight champion from 1973-74, came back to the ring after a 10-year retirement. After a string of victories against mostly unthreatening fighters, Foreman lost a title bout to former undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield in April 1991.

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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#### OFFERING A CHOICE

Both vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**

♦ K 10 9  
A K 9 4  
J 10  
A 8 5 4

**WEST**

♦ A Q J 8 5 ♦ 7 6

Q 6 3 2

♦ K 10 3 ♦ 7 6 2

**SOUTH**

♦ 4 3 2

J 10 7 6 5

A K 7

A 9

The bidding: East South West North

Pass Pass 1 ♦ Dbl

Pass 4 Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Bridge in the U.S. is alive and well. At the recent Spring North American Championships in Pasadena, Calif., a team of young New Yorkers led by Lapt Chan scored an upset win over the top-seeded squad of former world champions captained by Malcolm Brachman of Dallas. They did so by making life difficult for their more illustrious opponents throughout the match.

Hoy's example:

Note South's jump to four hearts in response to North's takeout dou-

ble. Despite only 10 high-card points, the fifth heart and the fact that all the points were working justified South's optimism. Looking at all the cards, four hearts seems to be a simple enough contract, but not after an inspired opening lead by Uday Iavuri, West.

Iavuri selected the queen of spades for his initial salvo and suddenly declared. Peter Weichsel of Encinitas, Calif., had a major problem. Assuming West has a five-card suit, East had no more than two spades and if, they included the ace, covering with the king would spell defeat. East would win and return a spade to West's jack, then ruff the third spade. Declarer would still have to concede a club-down one.

If that was the East holding, the way to success was to duck the first trick in dummy, and duck the continuation. However, playing low would lose if the cards were distributed as in the diagram.

The combined East-West high-card count was only 15 and, even allowing for a light opening bid, Weichsel decided, after much thought, that West was unlikely to have opened without the ace of spades. So he elected to go up with the king. That held, the game sailed home, but West had come within an eyelash of beating the "unbeatable."

## Courier, Seles advance to last 16

**MELBOURNE (AP)** — Defending champions Jim Courier and Monica Seles turned up the heat Friday, continuing their dream runs with straight-set third-round victories at the Australian Open Tennis Championship.

American Courier was too strong for bespectacled Frenchman Guillaume Raoux, winning 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the round of 16 as the on-court temperature climbed to 42 C (109 F).

"I'm hoping it gets hot," said Courier. "I'm from Florida. I'm used to the heat. It suits me."

Seles, who is looking for her third straight women's singles title, was even more dominant in trouncing veteran American baseliner Patty Kendick 6-1, 6-0 in just 47 minutes. The match had only 74 points, of which Seles won 52.

"I tried not to let her get too much into the match," Seles said with masterful understatement.

The Yugoslav player has made it at least to the final in the last seven Grand Slam tournaments she has contested, winning six.

Grand Slam Cup winner Michael Stich of Germany found the going tough against Australian Jason Stoltenberg, but No.

14 Stich eventually won 5-7, 6-4,

7-6 (7-0), 4-6, 6-1.

Petr Korda, Guy Forget and Sergi Bruguera, three of the other leading European contenders, also won third-round men's singles matches.

Courier hit with accuracy and strength to wear down Raoux, who is solid but lacks a weapon.

The Frenchman won a tournament in Brisbane last year, but never had made it past the second round in his 13 Grand Slam appearances.

Courier said he was not thinking about repeating as champion. "The only thing to worry about is the next match," he said. "I can't win what's not in front of me."

Courier has not dropped a set in his opening three matches, while Seles has conceded only six games.

Korda, the seventh-seeded left-hander from the Czech Republic, won a hard-fought struggle with Ukraine teen-ager Andrei Medvedev 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

Korda kept his nerve best in a match that was error-filled but lasted two hours and 43 minutes.

He won when his final forehand crosscourt hit the net tape and dropped right on the sideline, giving Medvedev no chance to recover.

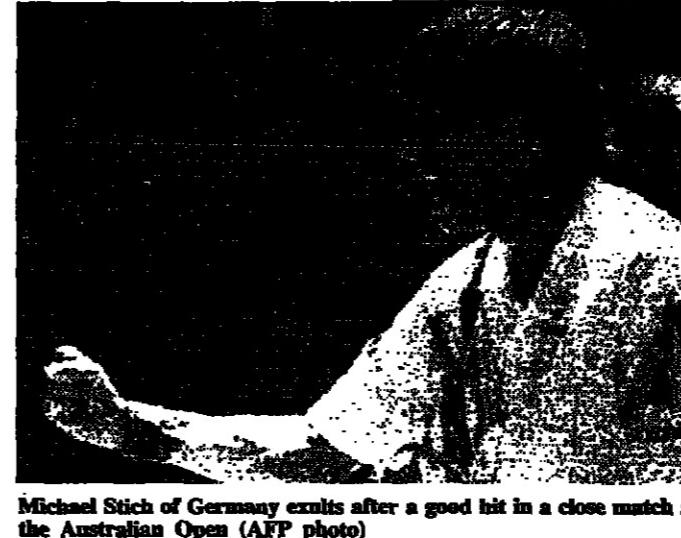
"Maybe that was the present for my birthday," said Korda, who turns 25 Saturday.

"I played a bad match," said Medvedev. "I think I deserved to lose this match on a net cord. It was the right end. It was like (Mike) Tyson punch. The end."

Korda is aiming to build on his performance of last year, when he reached the final of the French Open, losing to Courier. He served and volleyed with ferocity against the skillful Medvedev, but also hit 12 double faults.

Korda next plays American qualifier Chris Garner, ranked 220 in the world, who beat compatriot Todd Witsken 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Stich, seeded 15th seed from



Michael Stich of Germany exits after a good hit in a close match at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

Spain, struggled past left-handed Dutchman Jan Siemerink 7-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 9-7.

Clay court specialist Bruguera came 14 sets to win his three matches.

"When you are playing tough matches like that you lose energy... but the wins also give you more confidence," he said.

Siemerink stayed off three match points before Bruguera clinched the win and a meeting

with Courier.

In contrast to the struggles of Korda and Bruguera, Frenchman Forget and the 11th seed, cruised by Australian Jamie Morgan 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in just one hour 29 minutes. Forget advanced to the final 16 of the Open for only the third time in nine attempts.

Forget, who has not yet dropped a set in the tournament, plays American Kelly Jones, a qualifier who surprisingly eliminated countryman David Wheaton 0-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

French players Mary Pierce, Nathalie Tauziat and Julie Halarad all progressed to the final 16 of the women's draw.

Pierce, seeded 10th, dismissed American high school student Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-0, while Tauziat, the No. 13 seed, advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Name Dahlman of Finland.

Halarad surprised No. 16 seed Zina Garrison-Jackson of the United States 6-4, 7-5.

Tauziat, who next plays Seles, lodged a complaint about the world No. 1's grunting during last year's Wimbledon tournament.

"If it disturbs me again I will complain. If it doesn't, I won't," Tauziat said.

The next year two managers, Britain's Colin Addison and Spain's Javier Clemente, were sacked when the side were doing well and one year later Yugoslav replacement Tomislav Ivic was removed when Atletico were second.

The Madrid side have also had a fast turnaround of players in recent years, buying and then losing a steady stream of Spanish internationals as well as the Austrian international Gerhard Rodax and Brazilian de Moraes.

Aragones has a simple solution to the present troubles. "The team just needs to win," he said, and there are some glimmers of hope for him.

Best news for the beleaguered club was the successful return at the weekend of German midfielder Bernd Schuster, who has been out of action for nearly three months, but returned in style against Real.

Cesar Luis Menotti was

dumped in 1988 when Atletico were third in the table. The following season Gil uncannily ousted charismatic Briton Ron Atkinson, again when the team were third.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 1993  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Moon conjunct Saturn today makes the grass look a lot greener elsewhere indeed. If you're feeling a little sluggish, a carrot juice will energize nicely. Agreements are firmly established today.

### ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Look to good friends and interesting acquaintances for the answers to which you have been searching and show them your interest in their welfare.

### TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

A highly placed person who is versed in ways to realize an abundance can now give you excellent pointers for your material advancement, progress.

### GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

An urge to think of person of different backgrounds understands your personal needs and will give you the know-how whereby to make them work.

### MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Get into confidential discussions with experts in the fields of interest to you and need them out of the information you desire.

### LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

If you spend time finding out about modern methods and apply them to whatever your own personal holdings are, you can have a very good time and also have a meeting productive of beneficial results.

### VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Look to one who has the power

to revise some condition of an unusual nature that has been a thorn in your flesh and accept, use the suggestions given.

**LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)** You now have the inspiration to gain your most imaginative and idealistic aspirations so early consider to implement them in your life.

**SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)** This is a day when you will be able to understand your family members actual goals and can please them by helping them to realize them.

**SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)** Taking jabs to see or be with an outside associate finds you able to get into a closer union with that individual to your mutual advantage.

**CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)** If you spend time finding out about modern methods and apply them to whatever your own personal holdings are, you can have a real estate more prosperity.

**AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)** A great day for you to consider the various entertainments and recreations that you like the most and make preparation to enjoy them.

**PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)** Your need for more action with those who also live benefit from your roof can now be gained by some unusual means for attaining their attention to your affection.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS



**Financial Markets** in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		New York Close	Tokyo Close	Date 21/1/93
Currency				
Sterling Pound*	1.5450	1.5438		
Deutsche Mark	1.6009	1.6047		
Swiss Franc	1.4673	1.4698		
French Franc	5.4160	5.4215 **		
Japanese Yen	124.65	124.68		
European Currency Unit	1.2235	1.2242 **		

USD Per STG

European Opening or 8:00 a.m. GMT

Foreign currency interest rates Date: 21/1/93

Currency		1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.18	3.31	3.75	
Sterling Pound	6.87	6.68	6.56	6.50	
Deutsche Mark	6.62	8.31	8.00	7.43	
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.43	5.43	5.31	
French Franc	11.62	11.25	10.25	9.25	
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.68	3.56	3.43	
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.75	9.50	8.87	

Interest rate rules for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 21/1/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.85	6.45	Silver	3.73	.080

21 March

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 21/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
Sterling Pound	1.0591	1.0644
Deutsche Mark	0.4277	0.4298
Swiss Franc	0.4670	0.4693
French Franc	0.1266	0.1272
Japanese Yen*	0.5498	0.5525
Dutch Guilder	0.3803	0.3822
Swedish Krona	0.0959	0.0964
Italian Lira*	0.0469	0.0471
Belgian Franc	0.02075	0.02085

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 21/1/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7890	1.8210
Lebanese Lira*	0.056885	0.056885
Saudi Riyal	0.1620	0.1633
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1869
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1869
Greek Drachma*	0.31325	0.32325
Cypriot Pound	1.4355	1.4448

Per 100

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	18/1/1993 Close	19/1/1993 Close
AB Share	185.71	188.71
Banking Sector	134.23	136.57
Insurance Sector	202.85	205.87
Industry Sector	253.93	259.72
Services Sector	251.87	252.25

December 31, 1992 = 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish kronas	Norwegian kronas	Danish kronas
1.2862/67	1.6107/10	1.8080/90	1.4767/77	33.13/17	5.4475/52	1483/1488	124.85/90	7.2100/200	6.8350/450	6.1800/900	1.5150/60
One sterling	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30	1.5293/30
One ounce of gold	329.30/329.80										

## CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston

## BODYGUARD

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Free Car Parking

Tel: 675571

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:  
**Pandemonium (Tr'a wa Qaimah)**  
Daily at 8:30 p.m.  
Tickets office open all day

## PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in

## HOST

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Th. + Fr. special show for children at 11:00

## The Fox And The Hound

Tel: 625155

## AHLAN THEATRE

"Welcome New World Order"

Play will reappear in a new presentation on Jan. 25, 1993 following the theatre's holiday Happy New Year

Tel: 625155

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## Japanese workers face skimpy pay rise in '93

TOKYO (R) — In a reflection of Japan's economic downturn, an influential employers' group has said that pay rises for workers in the coming year should be drastically limited.

The Japan Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkeiren) said labour should not expect increases much beyond those granted last year, in order to ease the burden on struggling companies.

"The most important subject in basic management policies is to maintain and secure employment," Nikkeiren said in a recent statement.

The comments, the first salvo in annual wage negotiations usually held in March and April, reflect the close relationship between employer and employee in Japan.

According to the unwritten rules of Japan's lifetime employment system, employees are supposed to accept low increases in return for being kept on the payroll when times are tough.

Economists say the low wage increase could prolong Japan's

holds profound implications for the nation's ability to pull out of a prolonged economic downturn.

Criticising labour's demand this year that employers raise wages by some seven per cent or an average of more than 20,000 yen (\$160) a month, Nikkeiren said: "The demand by labour, which is little changed from a year ago, is completely unrealistic."

Last year, the regular annual rise agreed between management and labour was a scant 2.3 per cent.

That would leave wage earners with virtually the same earning power as the 1991-92 fiscal year since the consumer price index is climbing at around 2.2 per cent.

Although employees are being asked to accept a small pay pact this year, their job security is subject to question. Some economists believe the unemployment rate could climb as high as 3.5 per cent this year from the current 2.2 per cent.

Economists say the low wage increase could prolong Japan's

downturn because weak consumer spending is one of the major reasons the economy remains in the doldrums.

Many consumers, haunted by fears about the future, are increasing savings and reducing spending, leading to a self-fulfilling prophecy of economic weakness.

Economists estimate that Japanese are saving about 16 per cent of disposable income compared with around 14 per cent in 1989, the peak economic boom time.

The OECD recently said that Japan's economic slowdown, now nearly two years old, may have stopped as the government maintains, but recovery will be long and slow.

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Economists say the low wage increase could prolong Japan's

## Clinton opts not to stick to old deficit targets

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton opened the door to widening the federal government's budget deficit Thursday by deciding not to stick to fixed targets for the deficit set under a 1990 law.

The White House said Mr. Clinton notified Congress he would not return to the old system of fixed deficit ceilings and the threat of automatic spending cuts to enforce them.

The president has today notified the congressional leadership of technical adjustments to be made in calculating the national deficit," a White House spokesman said.

The statement said that sticking to the old deficit target could bring about "across-the-board budget reductions in accounts such as national defence that could equal 11 per cent in the beginning of the next fiscal year."

It would also "undermine the credibility of economic and budget estimates," the statement said.

Both Secretary of State Warren Christopher and key members of the U.S. Congress are talking about reforming foreign aid, which over the years has supported despots and fuelled arms races even as it helped the world's impoverished.

"President Clinton will soon put before the Congress a real economic programme aimed at reducing the deficit and providing long-term economic growth," he pointed out.

